GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1418
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
AIDS VACCINES
YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on two AIDS vaccines has shown positive result at the animal testing stage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the trial of these vaccines on human is yet to start;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which phase III trials are likely to be completed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) No Sir. However, there are two HIV-I sub type C candidate AIDS vaccines under the process of development in India namely:

(i) HIV-1 sub-type `C` DNA vaccine candidate being developed at the National HIV Reference Center, Deptt. of Microbiology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi under the Prime Minister`s `Jai Vigyan` Mission ProgrammeThe Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India has funded this programme. The vaccine candidate has still to undergo pre-clinical toxicity testing in animals, and

(ii) Modified Vaccinia Ankara multi-epitope candidate vaccine developed under a tripartite agreement between ICMR-NACO and IAVI. The work is being carried out by two ICMR institutions namely National AIDS Research Instt., Pune and National Instt. of Choler & Enteric Diseases, Kolkatta, in collaboration with Therion biologics USA. Animal toxicity and Immunogenicity tests are yet to be completed.

(c) to (e) The candidate vaccine once developed would go through pre-clinical safety and toxicity studies in animal before phase I, II and III clinical trials are undertaken in human beings. At this stage, no definite time line for phase III can be spelt out.